



Telephone: 1-800-535-7088
Email: nass-wv@nass.usda.gov



National Agricultural
Statistics Service
West Virginia Field Office

in cooperation with

West Virginia
Department of Agriculture

RELEASED: October 2015

VOLUME 28, NUMBER 10

IN THIS ISSUE

RED MEAT PRODUCTION
CHICKENS AND EGGS
THIRD QUARTER MILK PRODUCTION
OCTOBER CROP PRODUCTION
ORGANIC FARMS IN WEST VIRGINIA
PASTURE AND RANGE MAP

RED MEAT PRODUCTION

Charleston, West Virginia - Commercial red meat production during September 2015 totaled 700,000 pounds. This was up 2 percent from September 2014. Commercial red meat production is the carcass weight after slaughter including beef, veal, pork, lamb and mutton. Individual commodity production is total live weight of commercial slaughter.

Commercial cattle slaughter totaled 828,000 pounds live weight, down 6 percent from September 2014. Cattle slaughter totaled 800 head, down 100 head from the previous year. The average live weight was up 39 pounds from the previous year, at 997 pounds.

Commercial calf slaughter was not published to avoid disclosing individual operations.

Commercial hog slaughter totaled 261,000 pounds live weight, up 11 percent from last year. Hog slaughter totaled 1,000 head, up 100 head from the previous year. The average live weight was up 7 pounds from the previous year, at 272 pounds.

Commercial sheep and lamb slaughter was not published to avoid disclosing individual operations.

United States - Commercial red meat production for the United States totaled 4.14 billion pounds in September, up 5 percent from the 3.96 billion pounds produced in September 2014.

Beef production, at 2.09 billion pounds, was 1 percent above the previous year. Cattle slaughter

totaled 2.47 million head, down 2 percent from September 2014. The average live weight was up 39 pounds from the previous year, at 1,383 pounds.

Veal production totaled 6.8 million pounds, 5 percent below September a year ago. Calf slaughter totaled 37,200 head, down 12 percent from September 2014. The average live weight was up 22 pounds from last year, at 312 pounds.

Pork production totaled 2.04 billion pounds, up 9 percent from the previous year. Hog slaughter totaled 9.73 million head, up 10 percent from September 2014. The average live weight was down 3 pounds from the previous year, at 280 pounds.

Lamb and mutton production, at 12.2 million pounds, was down slightly from September 2014. Sheep slaughter totaled 190,800 head, slightly below last year. The average live weight was 128 pounds, unchanged from September a year ago.

January to September 2015 commercial red meat production was 35.8 billion pounds, up 2 percent from 2014. Accumulated beef production was down 4 percent from last year, veal was down 16 percent, pork was up 8 percent from last year, and lamb and mutton production was down 4 percent.

September 2014 contained 22 weekdays (including 1 holiday) and 4 Saturdays. September 2015 contained 22 weekdays (including 1 holiday) and 4 Saturdays.

Note: Percent changes are based on unrounded data.

CHICKENS AND EGGS

United States - Egg production totaled 7.49 billion during September 2015, down 8 percent from last year. Production included 6.40 billion table eggs, and 1.10 billion hatching eggs, of which 1.02 billion were broiler-type and 78 million were egg-type. The total number of layers during September 2015

averaged 333 million, down 8 percent from last year. September egg production per 100 layers was 2,249 eggs, down 1 percent from September 2014.

All layers in the United States on October 1, 2015 totaled 334 million, down 8 percent from last year. The 334 million layers consisted of 277 million layers producing table or market type eggs, 54.3 million layers producing broiler-type hatching eggs, and 3.27 million layers producing egg-type hatching eggs. Rate of lay per day on October 1, 2015, averaged 74.6 eggs per 100 layers, down 1 percent from October 1, 2014.

Egg-type chicks hatched during September 2015 totaled 49.3 million, up 13 percent from September 2014. Eggs in incubators totaled 49.9 million on October 1, 2015, up 15 percent from a year ago.

Domestic placements of **egg-type pullet chicks** for future hatchery supply flocks by leading breeders totaled 222 thousand during September 2015, down 44 percent from September 2014.

Broiler-type chicks hatched during September 2015 totaled 761 million, up slightly from September 2014. Eggs in incubators totaled 608 million on October 1, 2015, down 2 percent from a year ago.

Leading breeders placed 8.57 million **broiler-type pullet chicks** for future domestic hatchery supply flocks during September 2015, up 18 percent from September 2014.



THIRD QUARTER MILK PRODUCTION

Charleston, West Virginia - Milk production in West Virginia totaled 34 million pounds or 4.0 million gallons during the July - September quarter of 2015. This is unchanged from the same quarter last year, but is down 3 million pounds or approximately 349,000 gallons from the April - June 2015 quarter. The number of dairy cows averaged 8,500 head, down 500 head from the same period in 2014 and the previous quarter.

United States - Milk production in the United States during the July - September quarter totaled 51.6 billion pounds, up 0.9 percent from the July - September quarter last year. The average number of milk cows in the United States during the quarter was 9.31 million head, 7,000 head fewer than the April - June quarter, but 43,000 head more than the same period last year.

Note: A conversion of 8.6 pounds per gallon was used.

OCTOBER CROP PRODUCTION

Charleston, West Virginia - All other hay production is forecast at 1,178,000 tons, up 12 percent from the August 1 forecast of 1,054,000 tons and up 9 percent from the 2014 crop. All other hay harvested acreage is expected to total 620,000 acres in 2015, this is unchanged from the August 1 forecast but up 20,000 acres from 2014. Yield is expected to average 1.90 tons per acre, up 0.20 ton per acre from the August 1 forecast and up 0.10 ton per acre from 2014. The October 1 production forecast for alfalfa hay is not published for West Virginia. The next alfalfa hay estimate will be published in January 2016.

United States - Alfalfa and alfalfa mixtures dry hay production for 2015 is forecast at 63.2 million tons, up 2 percent from the August forecast and up 3 percent from 2014. Based on October 1 conditions, yield is expected to average 3.45 tons per acre, up 0.06 ton from August and up 0.12 ton from last year. Harvested area is forecast at 18.3 million acres, unchanged from August, but down less than 1 percent from 2014. Idaho, Nebraska, and Texas are expecting record high yields in 2015.

With the exception of the continuing drought in the far western United States, much of the growing season has been characterized by good moisture. Some Corn Belt States had surplus moisture, which was good for growth, but difficult for cutting and drying in the early part of the hay harvesting season. Later season harvest went smoothly but tended to be lower yielding.

Other hay production is forecast at 79.2 million tons, down 1 percent from the August forecast but up 1 percent from 2014. Based on October 1 conditions, yields are expected to average 2.07 tons per acre,

down 0.02 ton from August but up 0.04 ton from last year. If realized, yield will be a record high for the United States. Harvested area is forecast at 38.2 million acres, unchanged from August but down 1 percent from 2014.

Beneficial moisture in many central States during May and June, along with an increase in harvested acreage, has producers expecting slightly increased production over last year. Producers in Georgia, Idaho, Missouri, and North Dakota are expecting record high yields in 2015.

Corn production is forecast at 13.6 billion bushels, down 5 percent from last year's record production and down less than 1 percent from the September forecast. Based on conditions as of October 1, yields are expected to average 168.0 bushels per acre, up 0.5 bushel from the September forecast but down 3.0 bushels from 2014. If realized, this will be the second highest yield and third largest production on record for the United States. Area harvested for grain is forecast at 80.7 million acres, down less than 1 percent from the September forecast and down 3 percent from 2014. Acreage updates were made in several States following a thorough review of all available data.

Soybean production is forecast at 3.89 billion bushels, down 1 percent from September and down 1 percent from last year. Based on October 1 conditions, yields are expected to average 47.2 bushels per acre, up 0.1 bushel from last month but down 0.3 bushel from last year. Area for harvest in the United States is forecast at 82.4 million acres, down 1 percent from September and down slightly from last year. Acreage updates were made in several States based on a thorough review of all available data.

ORGANIC FARMS IN WEST VIRGINIA

Charleston, West Virginia - In 2014, West Virginia had 24 organic farms, down 31 farms from 55 farms in 2008; this includes both certified organic farms and farms exempt from certification. In 2014, 22 farms had sales of up to \$19,999; 2 farms had sales over \$20,000. Of the organic farms identified in the 2014 Organic Survey, 9 were certified organic farms and 15 were exempt. Certified and exempt farms together accounted for 2,120 acres of organic production in 2014.

In 2014, 16 farms had crop production, including nursery and greenhouse, 8 had livestock and poultry, and 3 had livestock and poultry products. Some of the produce and livestock West Virginia organic farms sold included blueberries, blackberries, garlic, lettuce, tomatoes, potatoes, peppers, all hay, sorghum, corn for grain, cattle, and chickens.

Some other interesting facts include the following: 15 farms maintained beneficial insect/vertebrate habitats, 17 farms produced or used organic mulch/compost, 21 farms had direct consumer sales, and 23 farms sold locally within 100 miles. 15 farms spent a total of 75,000 dollars on utilities, 22 farms spent a total of 32,000 dollars on fertilizer, lime, and soil conditioners, and 6 farms spent a total of 23,000 dollars on interest paid on all debt related to the farm business.

Detailed national, regional and state data are available on the NASS website and in NASS' online database Quick Stats. For more information go to www.agcensus.usda.gov.

West Virginia Organic Sales by Product Type

		2008	2014
Total organic product sales	farms	46	24
	dollars	409,000	(D)
Crops, including nursery and greenhouse	farms	42	16
	dollars	385,000	160,000
Livestock and poultry	farms	13	8
	dollars	20,000	298,000
Livestock and poultry products	farms	10	3
	dollars	4,000	(D)

(D) Withheld to avoid disclosing data for individual farms.

**PASTURE AND RANGE CONDITION-PERCENT RATED GOOD OR EXCELLENT
FOR THE WEEK ENDING OCTOBER 25, 2015**



WALT HELMICK, COMMISSIONER
CHARMAINE WILSON, STATE STATISTICIAN

United States Department of Agriculture
National Agricultural Statistics Service
West Virginia Department of Agriculture
1900 Kanawha Boulevard East
Charleston, West Virginia 25305